

gnats for grubs, easily enough accounted for by those who were acquainted Dr. Scott's left-handed writing. Had he, indeed, intended gnats, he would much more likely have used the word mosquitoes; but as we sat together in his veranda watching the male Hoopoe digging up grubs, I am confident he intended, and, indeed, wrote that word.

It also breeds in holes of trees, as I observed at Hardwar and elsewhere. At Umballa I daily noticed its hunting for food, which appeared to consist almost entirely of grubs. These it hunted for on the ground, tapping with its bill continually till it discovered the retreat of one (by what sense I cannot say, whether of smell or sound), when it dug pertinaciously and vigorously through the rather hard soil till it reached the desired morsel, the beak being occasionally immersed to its base. I fancied that the call of this species is very generally a treble hoot, whilst that of the next one is more commonly a double call.

255. *UPUPA NIGRIPENNIS*.

It appears that this bird should stand as *UPUPA CEYLONENSIS* of Reichenbach. The white spot on the first primary is occasionally present in this species, and is even sometimes found on one wing and not on the other; it is therefore not to be relied on as a specific character.

Blyth, in his commentary, accepted the Burmese race, which I named *longirostris*, as a distinct one; and Mr. Sharpe, who has lately been critically examining the Hoopoes, has come to the same conclusion. Swinhoe, on the contrary, in his latest list puts it as a synonym of *U. ceylonensis*.

[To be continued.]

II.—On a new Species of *Phylloscopus*. By W. E. BROOKS, C.E., Etawah, India.

WHILE I was in Cashmere, in May and June of the present year, 1871, I frequently saw a *Phylloscopus* which appeared to me at the time to be new, and procured four specimens. My friend Col. Tytler was the first to separate it, four years ago, from *Phylloscopus viridanus*, which bird it somewhat resembles, and for which, at first sight, it might be easily mistaken by merely superficial observers.

Col. Tytler shot this specimen at Simla; and it corresponds in every respect with my Cashmere specimens.

Another specimen, and the sixth with which I am acquainted, was shot (by another friend of mine, Capt. Cock) off the nest with four eggs, at Sonamurg, in Cashmere. This was in June last; and Capt. Cock sent me the bird for identification.

This new *Phylloscopus* I propose to call

PHYLLOSCOPUS TYTLERI, sp. nov.

The following are the dimensions:—Length 4·75 in.; wing 2·3; tail 1·7; bill at front ·36, bill from nostril ·3; tarsus ·75.

The dimensions of *Phylloscopus viridanus* are:—Length 5 in.; wing 2·5; tail 2; bill at front ·3, bill from nostril ·29; tarsus ·8.

It will be seen from the above that *P. viridanus* is a larger bird.

In form, *P. tytleri* differs from *P. viridanus* by having a longer, narrower, much more pointed, and very much darker-coloured bill, the lower mandible being black-brown instead of pale flesh-colour. This alone is quite sufficient to distinguish it: the wing is shorter, but of the same form as that of *P. viridanus* in regard to proportions of primaries. The tail is shorter. In colour it is of a darker and richer olive on the whole upper parts, and does not appear to have the tail rayed: that of *P. viridanus* is generally very conspicuously rayed. There is a total absence of the “slight whitish wing-bar,” which I have always observed to be present in *P. viridanus*, unless the bird be in very abraded plumage.

In notes and song (if the few notes it utters can be called a song) *P. tytleri* is utterly different from *P. viridanus*. Its call-note is very peculiar, and once heard could not easily be forgotten. In the localities it frequents and inhabits it is quite opposed to *P. viridanus*. The latter, during the breeding-season, frequents mountain-ravines not far from the snows, which are covered with brushwood and small birch trees; whilst *P. tytleri* is a forest *Phylloscopus*, frequenting the pine-woods below the snowy ranges. The only nest found of our new bird was the one above referred to, taken by Capt. Cock.